Problems faced by Senior Citizens in CGHS Dispensaries

541. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government are aware of the difficulties and problems being faced by the senior citizens in the CGHS dispensaries in the far-flung colonies in outer Delhi areas; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard, so as to provide appropriate facilities to the senior citizens most of whom have paid whole-life contributions for retaining CGHS medical services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Adequate medical facilities are available to the CGHS pensioner beneficiaries (Senior Citizens) through the dispensaries under CGHS, Delhi which is nearest to their place of residence.

(b) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

Female Foeticides in Punjab

542. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the alarming levels of female foeticides in Punjab; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A.RAJA): (a) and (b) No specific data is available on female foeticide. However, the sex ratio in the age group of 0-6 years in Punjab has decreased from 875 in 1991 to 793 in 2001, from which it may be inferred that female foeticide could be one of the reasons for this decline.

To contain female foeticide, the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 now Pre-Conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act was enacted which came into force from 1 January, 1996. The Act and Rules have been amended for strengthening the enforcement of the Act

by constituting Appropriate Authorities at district and State levels and making punishments more stringent.

The State Government has been advised to mount campaigns for spreading awareness on the provisions of the Act and closely inspect ultrasound clinics indulging in sex determination etc.

Religious leader's meet has been organized at Fatehgarh Sahib in Punjab against the practice of female foeticide where this practice was widely condemned and the Akal Takht issued Hukumnama to Sikh Community to stop the practice of female foeticide.

Production of Banned Drugs

543. SHRIAIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of drugs which are globally banned are still being produced, stocked and freely administered to the patients in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is recognized world over that these drugs have serious side effects when taken for a long time and without medical advice; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) It is not a fact that large number of drugs banned globally are freely marketed in the country.There is no such system as global banning of drugs. Drugs withdrawn in some countries may continue to be .used by other countries and the decision rests on various factors such as the disease pattern in a country, the varying reaction of certain ethnic groups in a given population to the drug, the availability of safer substitutes as well as the cost factor involved in the treatment of the diseases.

There is an adequate mechanism to review the status of drugs in India as and when any serious adverse event is reported in international journals or WHO news letters etc. 75 drugs/drug formulations have so far been prohibited through the review process.